

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00036 261615Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 034277

R 261530Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1215

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0036

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA'S PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY
ENDORSES LEADERSHIP OF JOHN BUCHANAN AND BIDS FAREWELL TO
FEDERAL PARTY LEADER ROBERT STANFIELD

1. EFFORTS BY SOME YOUNGER MEMBERS OF NOVA SCOTIA'S
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PC) TO QUESTION
LEADERSHIP OF JOHN BUCHANAN CAME TO NAUGHT AT THE
MEETING OF DELEGATES OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY ON
JANUARY 24, 1976 . IN A SECRET BALLOT MORE THAN 80
PERCENT OF THE 542 DELEGATES VOTED AGAINST A RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR A LEADERSHIP CONVENTION IN 1976. THE PARTY
DID, HOWEVER, ADOPT A MOTION CALLING FOR A SECRET BALLOT
ON PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERSHIP AFTER 12 MONTHS AND NO
LATER THAN 18 MONTHS FOLLOWING A PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

2. PRESENT AT THE PC MEETING FOR THE LAST TIME IN HIS
CAPACITY AS NATIONAL LEADER OF THE PARTY WAS ROBERT
STANFIELD WHO TOLD THE CONVENTION THE THE COUNTRY HAD
EXPERIENCED TOO MUCH CONFRONTATION. "LINES ARE
BECOMING HARDER AND MISTRUST IS GROWING." HE SAID THAT
THE PC PARTY SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON DOGMA BUT RATHER
UPON BROAD PRINCIPLES AND CONVICTIONS WHICH ARE
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INTERPRETED AND APPLIED TO CHANGING CONDITIONS.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC CONTROLS, MR STANFIELD SAID THAT HE HAD VOTED AGAINST IT BECAUSE IT WAS TOO LONG. "THIS LENGTHY PERIOD WOULD MAKE IT ALL TOO EASY TO SLIP INTO A HIGHLY REGULATED AND CENTRALIZED SOCIETY AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE."

4. MR STANFIELD EXPRESSED ALARM OVER A NUMBER OF FEATURES OF CANADIAN LIFE INCLUDING LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN PARLIAMENT, CONFLICTS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND FRENCH SPEAKING CANADIANS, THE INCONSISTENT APPROACH TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND A RESORT TO IMPROVISED SOLUTIONS OF THE MOMENT. HE DECRIED LACK OF A COHERENT APPROACH TO TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES.

5# MR STANFIELD ALSO VOICED CONCERN OVER CANADA'S

ELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID, "I DON'T FOR A MOMENT SAY THAT WE MUST STAND WITH OUR NEIGHBOR RIGHT OR WRONG. I DO THINK WE CAN CONDUCT OURSELVES IN WAYS THAT ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO MISUNDERSTANDING AND SUSPICION. WE HAVE SO MANY COMMON GOALS AS FREE SOCIETIES, SURELY WE SHOULD BE USING OUR ENERGIES TO PURSUE THEM RATHER THAN INDULGE IN NEEDLESS BICKERING AND DISPUTES. MANBEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HALIFA00036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0728
From: HALIFAX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760122/aaaaatde.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVA SCOTIA'S PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ENDORSES LEADERSHIP OF JOHN BUCHANAN AND BIDS FAREWELL TO
TAGS: PINT, CA, (BUCHANAN, JOHN), (STANFIELD, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006